

R 101005Z JAN 85  
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2135  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
USLO WINDHOEK  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0098

DEPT FOR AF/S - MS. BLACKFORD; ROME FOR INS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: [PREL](#) [SREF](#) [SHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [WA](#) [SF](#) [BC](#)

SUBJECT: ANGOLANS IN SADF SEEK REFUGE IN BOTSWANA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, TWO ANGOLAN MEMBERS OF THE SADF, WITH THEIR FAMILIES, SOUGHT REFUGEE STATUS IN BOTSWANA AND APPLIED FOR THE AMERICAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM. AFTER MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, THE MEN WERE SENT TO THE LOCAL UNHCR OFFICIALS TO REGISTER AS REFUGEES. PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR REFUGEE STATUS ARE REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JANUARY 4, TWO ANGOLAN MEMBERS OF THE SADF'S 32ND-BATTALION "BUFFALO COMPANY," CAME TO THE EMBASSY SEEKING REFUGEE STATUS AND INQUIRING ABOUT THE AMERICAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM (SEPTEL). THE TWO FAMILIES TOTAL 15 PEOPLE.

4. THE MEN, JOAO FAUSTINO SALES AND LASERU NHUKWETE, CLAIMED THAT THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES HAD FLED SOUTHERN ANGOLA IN THE DEBACLE OF 1976, SALES FROM SA DA BANDIERA (NOW LUBANGO) AND NHUKWETE FROM LUIMBALE (NEAR HUAMBO). BOTH MEN SUPPORTED FNLA, SALES BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING FOOD AND GUNS FOR THE FNLA.

5. FROM 1976 TO 1978, THE FAMILIES REPORTEDLY LIVED IN AN ANGOLAN REFUGEE CAMP NEAR RUNDU ON THE ANGOLAN-NAMIBIAN BORDER; ANOTHER ANGOLAN REFUGEE CAMP WAS LOCATED FURTHER EAST IN THE CAPRIVI. IN 1978, THE SOUTH AFRICANS GAVE THE REFUGEES TWO OPTIONS: THEY COULD JOIN THE SADF, OR BE RETURNED TO ANGOLA. THE REFUGEE CAMPS WERE TO BE DESTROYED. SALES AND NHUKWETE JOINED THE SADF AND ENDED UP AS TEACHERS FOR ANGOLAN CHILDREN OF OTHER RECRUITS. SALES TAUGHT PORTUGUESE AND NHUKWETE SCIENCE. SALES HELD RANK OF LANCE CORPORAL AND NHUKWETE CORPORAL.

6. ACCORDING TO SALES AND NHUKWETE, THE 32ND BATTALION IS COMPOSED COMPLETELY OF ANGOLANS, UNTIL 1978 ALL FNLA SUPPORTERS. SINCE THEN, A NUMBER OF UNITA SUPPORTERS AND "APOLITICAL" ANGOLANS HAVE ALSO JOINED THE 32ND. WHILE THE ENLISTED MEN ARE BLACK ANGOLANS, THE OFFICERS ARE WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS, WHO ARE FORCED TO LEARN PORTUGUESE IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE. (SALES AND NHUKWETE SPOKE PASSABLE ENGLISH, BUT FELT MORE COMFORTABLE TALKING IN PORTUGUESE WITH THE EMBASSY'S REFUGEE OFFICER.)

7. IN NOVEMBER 1983, THE MEN SAID THAT "SOUTH AFRICAN INTELLIGENCE" OFFICERS ENCOURAGED THE FOUNDING IN WINDHOEK OF A GROUP CALLED "THE SOCIO-CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF ANGOLANS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA." THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION IS ALLEGEDLY TIMOTYO VICTOR, A UNITA SYMPATHIZER. THE NEW ORGANIZATION WAS INTRODUCED TO THE ANGOLANS AT RUNDU BY A COL. VILJOEN (WHOSE NICKNAME IS "FANAKOLO," THE NAME GIVEN TO THE LANGUAGE USED IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES, SINCE VILJOEN ALLEGEDLY WORKED IN THE MINES BEFORE JOINING THE SADF). THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUNDU BRANCH IS JOAO APOLINARIO WHILE NHUKWETE WAS VICE-PRESIDENT AND SALES SECRETARY. ACCORDING TO A COPY OF THE SPEECH GIVEN BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER (EMBASSY HAS ENGLISH COPY WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED TO AF/S), THE PURPOSE OF THE REORGANIZATION IS "TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY CULTURAL TIES AMONGST MEMBERS OF THE ANGOLAN COMMUNITY IN SWA...TO MEET FELLOW SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS OF WINDHOEK, TSUMEB, KATIMA MULILO, AND RUNDU AT SOCCER MATCHES AND OTHER SPORTS EVENTS." EVERYONE WHO IS A "TRUE ANGOLAN" WAS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE ORGANIZATION.

18. IN NOVEMBER 1984, AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS HELD IN WINDHOEK AND ATTENDED BY ALL BRANCH LEADERS AND A LARGE NUMBER OF SADF OFFICERS OF COLONEL RANK OR HIGHER, ALL BELIEVED BY THE ANGOLANS TO BE FROM SADF INTELLIGENCE. THE ANGOLANS WERE TOLD THAT THE "FIRST PHASE" OF THE PROGRAM HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THEY COULD MOVE ON TO THE "SECOND PHASE." THE MEN RECEIVED A LECTURE ON THE DANGERS AND THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN THE AREA AND WERE TOLD THAT ELECTIONS WOULD SOON TAKE PLACE IN NAMIBIA; THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE FOUGHT BETWEEN THE INTERNAL PARTIES AND SWAPO. THE TWO MEN FELT THAT THEIR ORGANIZATION WAS BEING POLITICIZED AND THEY WERE BEING PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN AN ANTI-SWAPO CAMPAIGN IN NAMIBIA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ANGOLANS WERE TOLD THAT THE SADF WOULD LEAVE SOUTHWEST AFRICA AND RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA; THE ANGOLANS IN THE SADF WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH THEM, BUT NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AFTER THAT.

19. SALES AND NHUKWETE THEN REPORTEDLY DECIDED THAT THEY HAD A DIM FUTURE IN THE SADF AND DECIDED TO SEEK REFUGE IN BOTSWANA. THEY OBTAINED TRAVEL DECUMENTS, TOOK OFFICIAL LEAVE FROM THE SADF, AND TRAVELLED THROUGH THE CAPRIVI TO KATIMA MULILO, CROSSED INTO ZAMBIA, AND THENCEOINTO BOTSWANA AT KAZUNGULA. ACCORDING TO THE MEN, THEIR LEAVE EXPIRED ON JANUARY 7.

MAINO